THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) India is ranked, in terms of Government spending, as 153rd amongst 160 countries studied by the World Tourism and Travel Council.

(b) The tourist arrivals to India during the year 2000 were 2.64 million.

(c) The Conference of Chief Ministers and State Tourism Ministers was convened to discuss and obtain the views of the State/UT Governments on draft National Tourism Policy, restructuring the Central financial assistance guidelines, unformity and rationalisation of State Government taxes on tourism units, providing a constitutional status to tourism and product development and marketing. The Government's decision to constitute a Tourism Advisory Council at national level which would facilitate interaction amongst the various stakeholders in the tourism sector was announced in the Conference.

Development of tourism in Assam

581. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to develop tourism in some areas of Assam with the foreign assistance; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Tourism Projects of Andhra Pradesh

582. DR. DASARINARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prioritised any tourism projects of Andhra Pradesh in consultation with the State Government for the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the current status of these projects; and

(d) whether Government propose to take any steps to promote tourism in Andhra Pradesh?